RAJYA SABHA

Wernesday, the 11th September, 1991/ 20 Bhadra, 1913 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. Mr. Chairman in the chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No 221.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know through you...

श्री सभापति : पहले सवाल नंबर बोलिए, जवाब लीजिए फिर सप्लीमेंटरी पूछिए।

AN HON. MEMBER: Put the question.

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: Where is the Minister.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I am here. I am waiting for him to put the question.

वह नंबर बोलेंगे, तब मैं बोलूंगा।

श्री सभापति : बिल्कुल ठीक है, उनको पहले नंबर बोलना चाहिए था।

World Bank Loan for National Highways

*221. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:†
SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has given any loan to India to complete National Highway projects; if so, the amount thereof and the year in which it was given;

(b) the amount of loan that has not so far been utilised and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to utilise the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. In September, 1985, a loan agreement for US $ 200 million was signed with the World Bank for National Highway Projects.

(b) The agreement provided for the loan amount to be withdrawn between June, 1986 and June, 1992. Out of the targetted withdrawals equivalent to US $ 189.8 million upto quarter ending June 1991. an amount equivalent to US $ 125.441 million was still to be utilised at end of June 1991 due to slow progress of various projects.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to accelerate the progress of these projects include:

(i) termination of contracts of poorly performing contractors and re-award after fresh bidding based on strict pre-qualification;

(ii) settlement of various contractual issues including those arising from failure of a Joint Venture, together with additional assistance to contractors by way of extra mobilization advance etc.;

(iii) closer monitoring of on-going projects for early diagnosis of any problems and necessary corrective action by the Government; and

(iv) simplification of procedure for early sanction of revised cost estimates in the case of re-bid projects.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shiv Pratap Mishra.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know through you from the hon. Minister one thing. The road transport in the country has registered a phenomenal increase during the last few years but the development of roads has not kept pace with it. The loan assistance provided by the World Bank has not been swiftly used by the Government. What measures are the Government taking to modernise the National Highways in the country? How many kilometres of the National Highway have been widened to four lanes and what is the kilometrage of the National Highway which is proposed to be widened to four lanes? What has been the progress made so far in regard to the work for improvement of the National Highway with the World Bank assistance in the country, and in Bihar, West Bengal and specially in Uttar Pradesh? Will the hon. Minister make a spot-checking with a team of Members of Parliament on the GT Road from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal as Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then Minister had made such a spot-checking on the instructions of the late hon. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on this road from UP to West Bengal keeping the agonies and the troubles of the people in mind?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Members that I have recently visited Bihar...

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: Only Purnea. That is for political purposes, for the by-election.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Well, I think...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to give away Purnea?

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: No. Sir.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, I think, Purnea falls in Bihar. And if I have some spare time and spend with my Party people, I don't think there is any harm. But I did go to inspect the road because I had given an assurance in the other House. The hon. Members there wanted me to go because a particular road and a bridge was damaged. And you will be glad to know in case you are from Bihar that I have sanctioned a bridge there after I went there. So, even if my visit is for any other purpose according to you, the Bihar Government has benefited. And I would like to say that the state of affairs and the things in Bihar are so bad that for the last three years they have not utilised the money. And part from that, it was a very true confession by the Minister there that most part of the funds has not been utilised properly by the local people. Anyway, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Members that we got a loan from the World Bank because this was a question relating to the World Bank which gave loan for Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

For quite a number of reasons the work could not be taken up and the full amount could not be spent. We have taken certain steps to see that the work is also finished in time and quickly and the rest of the money is utilized—specially in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. And as far as my visit is concerned ,I have already informed that I have not been to U.P., but one of these days I would also make a visit to U.P. to look at the roads.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Sir, several highways pass through States, creating hazards for town people. There is a highway, G. T. Road, passing through Allahabad. Several schools are located on both sides of the highway. This results in several accidents leading to deaths and injuries to children and others every year. May I know, Sir, whether the Government proposes to construct bypass so that the traffic moving on such highways does not enter the cities through which these highways pass?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, this question is relating to the World Bank aid for different States. But I would like to inform the hon. Members, Sir, that looking at the 8th Five Year Plan whatever money is sanctioned, in case the work could be taken up, will be...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This money is not for bypasses?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: No, Sir.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: I want to know from the Minister which are the projects showing progress? I want this State-wise, and specially for Orissa.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which are the on-going projects in the World Bank loan?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: There is no project in Orissa.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No no. He wants to know in general. He is from Orissa. But he is interested in the whole of India.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: The World Bank aid is going on in Gujarat Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. I have each State's progress, road-wise. In case the Member is interested I can go on reading or it you want me to lay this on the Table...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You place it on Table of the House*

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I would like to know, out of these loan agreements of 200 dollars, how much was earmarked for the national highway in Rajasthan and how much was used? Can I have an assurance that the unutilized loan will also be taken up and used, and within what period? Sir, national highways are big hazards in most parts of the country. What steps are being taken to make national highways safer from robberies and also free from slow- moving vehicles, Pedestrians, etc.?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: We have no World Bank loan for the State of Rajasthan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is on World Bank loan, for national highways as such.

श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर : चेयरमैन साहब, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी का ध्यान नेशनल हाइवे नम्बर एक की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूं, जिसको जी.टी. रोड कहते हैं। यह इतनी इम्पोर्टेंट सड़क है जो कि हिमाचल प्रदेश को, पंजाब को, जम्मू और कश्मीर को कनेक्ट करती है। इसके लिए वर्ल्ड बैंक का लोन फोर लेनिंग के लिए लिया गया था।

श्री सभापति : इसके लिए मिला है वर्ल्ड बैंक से लोन।

श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर : उसमें एक महीने के अंदर सैकड़ों जानें तबाह होती हैं एक्सीडेंटस में, प्रापर्टी का नुकसान होता है। मेरी नालेज में यह है कि इसके अंदर एक फारेन की फर्म थी और एक इंडियन फर्म थी। फारेन की फर्म बैंक आऊट कर गई। इंडियन फर्म—इंटर कांटिनेन्टल—उन्होंने यह लिखकर दिया था कि उन्हीं टर्म्स एण्ड कंडीशन्स पर हम इस सडक को बनाने को तैयार हैं। पिछले कई साल से यह मामला यहां भी उठाया जा रहा है, लेकिन वह सड़क अभी तक अधूरी पड़ी है।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि अब उसकी लेटेस्ट पोजीशन क्या है, क्यों उसमें देरी की जा रही है और क्यों लोगों की जानें ली जा रही हैं?

*Placed on the Table. For the text, *See* Appendix CLX, Annexure No. 5.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I would like to inform the hon. Member that in Punjab the total which was sanctioned for four-laning of the existing two-lane national Highway No. 1, from Sarhind to Jullundur, was 96 kilometres which was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 67.58 crores. Till today, we have spent about Rs. 43.53 crores. The target date to finish this road is December, 1992. No doubt there have been delays but the delays are due to unsatisfactory performance of the National Buildings Construction Corporation and also the Indian Railway Construction Corporation in respect of mobilisation of manpower and machinery. The Government of India have already taken some steps. They have expelled NBCC from the project package and the work has been awarded to M/s Gannon, another contractor. In the second package, the NBCC is carrying on the construction package. As per the target of the Ministry, by December, 1992 we expect to complete the work.

श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर : मूर्थल से अम्बाला की जो फोर लेनिंग है इसमें इंटर कांटिनेंटल फर्म शामिल थी, जिसमें एक फर्म बैंक आउट हो गयी.... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री सभापति : वह कहते हैं कि वह इसमें नहीं आया।

श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर : वर्ल्ड बैंक लोन का है। मूर्थल से अम्बाला की ओर लेनिंग की वर्ल्ड बैंक की स्कीम है। उसमें एक फारेन फर्म बैंक आउट कर गयी थी और इंटर कांटिनेंटल वालों ने कहा था कि हम इसको—

We will construct it on the same terms and conditions. What is happening to that?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I would like to inform the hon. Member that as soon as this was brought to my notice, I wrote to the Chief Minister of Haryana about a month back. I am glad to say that the contract has been signed and I think the work should be in progress.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: We have been taking loan from the World Bank. If we look at the condition of the roads and the way they are built, may I ask the hon. Minister whether he is going to consider introducing the clause of quality control in all the agreements?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, quality control is already there. But we will see that...

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are of that quality.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 222.

"लिट्टे" से निपटने के लिए श्रीलंका को सहायता

*222. **डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय :** क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या श्रीलंका सरकार ने "लिट्टे" की गतिविधियों से निपटने के लिए भारत सरकार से कोई सहायता मांगी है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुआर्डो फेलेरियो) : (क) सरकार को लिट्टे की गतिविधियों से निपटने में सहायता करने के लिए श्रीलंका सरकार से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : माननीय सभापति जी,

"ए मेरे वतन के लोगो जरा आंख में भरलो पानी,